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BOROUGH OF BILSTON



REPORT

ON THE

Public Health Services

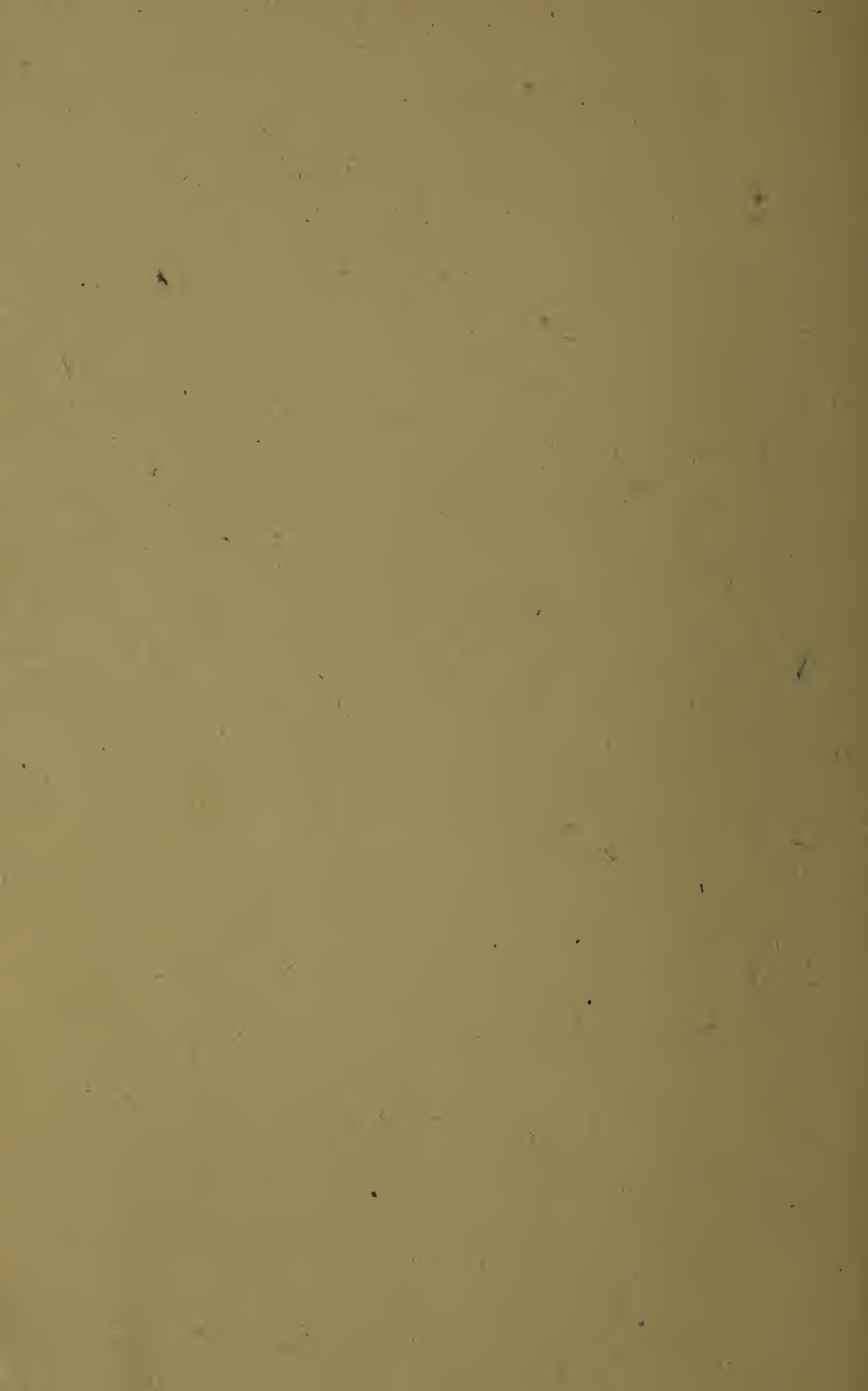
FOR THE YEAR 1952

B. C. HALLER, M.A. (Cantab.), L.R.C.P. (Edin.),
D.P.H. (Camb.),
Medical Officer of Health.

G. E. S. SHELDON, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,
M.R.San.I.
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Public Health Department,
23, Wellington Road,
Bilston, Staffs.

December, 1953.



**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Bilston.**

MR. MAYOR, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1952.

Last year I referred to the increase in the number of cases of Diphtheria, the majority of which occurred during the months of November and December. This outbreak was continued into the first three months of 1952 when 13 cases were notified, of these 6 were confirmed as being Diphtheria. One other confirmed case of this disease occurred in August, making a total of 14 notified cases of which 7 were confirmed during the year under review. The organisms found in the actual cases were of a virulent strain, but fortunately there were no deaths. Page 11 gives more details of the cases.

I can only stress the importance and value of immunization as a preventative measure in overcoming this disease.

The prevalence of infectious diseases in the Borough during the year under review is given in Table 9 on Page 10.

The causes of death are shown in Table 6 on Page 6, and the ages at which death occurred are to be found in Table 5 on Page 5.

The housing problem is now giving signs of improving with brighter hopes for the future.

The attention the sewage works is receiving gives promise of some definite action being taken to improve conditions of dealing adequately with the increased flow.

I am glad of this opportunity to express my appreciation to you, Madam and Gentlemen, for the help and encouragement you have given me in every way, and to the Town Clerk and other Officers of the Council for their aid and co-operation.

I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to my Staff for their willing help and loyalty.

My special thanks are due to Mr. Sheldon for the ever ready and valuable assistance accorded me at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

B. C. HALLER,
Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF
OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Whole Time Officers

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

*B. C. HALLER, M.A., (Cantab.), L.R.C.P.E., L.R.C.S.E.,
D.P.H. (Camb.)

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND
CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT :

*G. E. S. SHELDON, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
Certificated Meat and Food Inspector.
Certificated Smoke Inspector.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS :

*J. R. TART, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
Certificated Meat and Food Inspector.

*J. W. BARBER, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

*J. RICHARDS, Cert. S.I.B.
Certificated Meat and Food Inspector.

CLERICAL STAFF

HEALTH :

Miss R. P. Sheffield.
Mrs. J. A. Bright.
Miss M. Fellows.
C. J. Pearce.
E. R. Whittingham.

CLEANSING :

L. R. Littlewood.

* Officer whose salary is contributed to under Public Health or
Exchequer Grants.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1952

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	1,871 acres
Population : 1951 Census	33,464
Estimated Population for Year	33,470
Estimated number of inhabited houses for the year	9,050
Rateable Value at the 31st December, 1952	£152,545

Extracts from Vital Statistics :

	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES	
Live Births	636	320	316	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 19.00
(Legitimate)	618	313	305	
(Illegitimate)	18	7	11	
Still Births	16	11	5	Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still)Births 24.54

	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES	
Deaths	363	206	157	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 10.85

Comparability Factors : Births 0.97
 Deaths 1.30

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

(Headings 29 and 30) of the Registrar General's short lists).

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births	28.30
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	28.30
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	59
„ Measles (all ages)	—
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	4

Details of the Births in each Ward are given in Table 1, and particulars of the last five years in Table 2.

TABLE 1.

Ward	Males	Females	Total
New Town	28	45	73
High Town	30	30	60
Town Hall	85	75	160
Bradley	40	52	92
Ettingshall	32	38	70
Out of District	105	76	181
Total	320	316	636

TABLE 2.

Year	Males	Females	Total	Birth Rate per 1,000
1952	320	316	636	19.00
1951	301	291	592	17.70
1950	317	321	638	19.10
1949	333	294	627	19.01
1948	321	353	674	20.60

Table 3 shows the number of deaths in each Ward ; Table 4 gives the details for the last five years ; and Table 5 the ages at which death occurred.

TABLE 3.

Ward	Males	Females	Total
New Town	23	32	55
High Town	21	7	28
Town Hall	32	25	57
Bradley	18	20	38
Ettingshall	23	20	43
Transferable Deaths	90	52	142
Total	207	156	363

TABLE 4.

Year	Deaths			Death Rate per 1,000
	Males	Females	Total	
1952	207	156	363	10.85
1951	183	191	374	11.19
1950	190	174	364	10.91
1949	174	162	336	10.18
1948	145	139	284	8.68

TABLE 5.

	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year	12	6	18
1 and under 2 years	—	2	2
2 and under 5 years	1	—	1
5 and under 15 years	2	4	6
15 and under 25 years	7	5	12
25 and under 45 years	17	12	29
45 and under 65 years	54	36	90
65 and under 80 years	79	55	134
80 years and upwards	35	36	71
Total	207	156	363

The following table shows the causes of death and gives particulars of the number of males and females dying from various diseases :—

TABLE 6

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FE- MALES	TOTAL
Tuberculosis Respiratory	6	10	16
Tuberculosis Other	3	2	5
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	1	1
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm (Stomach)	2	6	8
Malignant Neoplasm (Lung, Bronchus)	8	1	9
Malignant Neoplasm (Breast)	—	9	9
Malignant Neoplasm (Uterus)	—	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	22	10	32
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	1	—	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	19	20	39
Coronary Disease, Angina	23	8	31
Hypertension with Heart Disease	6	4	10
Other Heart Disease	22	30	52
Other Circulatory Diseases	10	3	13
Influenza	3	1	4
Pneumonia	8	4	12
Bronchitis	19	7	26
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	7	2	9
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	3	1	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	5	6
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation	6	1	7
Other defined and Ill-defined Diseases	27	25	52
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	2	3
All other accidents	5	2	7
Suicide	1	1	2
Homicide and Operation of War	—	—	—
TOTAL	206	157	363

TABLE 7.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, and Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain infectious diseases in the Year 1952. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1951 Census)	BILSTON
Rates per 1,000 Home Population				
Births :				
Live Births	15.3	16.9	15.5	19.00
Still Births	0.35	0.43	0.36	0.48
	22.6(a)	24.6(a)	23.0(a)	
Deaths :				
All Causes	11.3	12.1	11.2	10.85
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.24	0.28	0.22	0.63
Influenza	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.12
Smallpox	0.00	—	—	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia	0.47	0.52	0.43	0.36
Notifications (Corrected)				
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.00
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.53	1.75	1.58	0.87
Whooping Cough	2.61	2.74	2.57	5.01
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.24
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.08
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	8.86	10.11	8.49	7.43
Pneumonia	0.72	0.80	0.62	2.42
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	—	—	—	—
Paralytic	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.03
Non-Paralytic	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.00
Food Poisoning	0.13	0.16	0.11	0.00
Deaths :	Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
All causes under 1 year of age	27.6(b)	31.2	25.8	28.31
Enteritis & Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.1	1.3	0.5	6.28
Notifications (Corrected)	Rates per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births			
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	17.87(a)	23.94(a)	10.22(a)	1.53

(a) per 1,000 total (live and still) births

(b) per 1,000 related live births

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water.

The water supply in the area is satisfactory in quality and quantity.

During the year 46 samples of water were taken, 10 of which were Chemically Analysed and 36 were Bacteriologically tested.

Of the 36 bacteriologically tested 2 were taken from the Bratch ; 2 from Tom Hill ; 8 from Coton Road reservoir ; 17 from private premises in Bilston ; 6 from Storage Tanks and 1 from Woodcross Reservoir.

Of the 10 samples chemically analysed, 2 were taken from the Bratch ; 2 from Tom Hill ; 5 from private dwellings in Bilston and 1 from Woodcross Reservoir.

The following are typical examples of chemical analyses undertaken :—

TABLE 8.

	BRATCH	TOM HILL.
	Parts per 1,000,000	Parts per 1,000,000
ph Value	7.4	6.3
Total Solid Matter dried at 212° F.	35.5	21.5
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil	Nil
Albuminoid	Nil	Nil
Nitric Nitrogen	0.63	0.78
Chlorine present as Chloride	2.40	1.80
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F.	0.006	Nil
Appearance	Extremely minute trace of suspended matter	Practically Clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination	Nil	None
Total Hardness	20.0°	7.4°
Permanent Hardness	12.0°	6.6°
Temporary Hardness	8.0°	0.8°
Free Chlorine	—	0.12
		Parts per million

This water is chemically of satisfactory quality.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The work of food inspection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors and details are given in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

Milk Supply and Food Adulteration.

The work under this heading is controlled by the County Council whose officers carry out the necessary work of sampling.

Details are included in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Table 9 shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, cases admitted to Hospital and the known deaths.

TABLE 9.

	Total Cases Notified	Total Cases Confirmed	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	30	29	10	—
Whooping Cough	168	168	13	1
Poliomyelitis	1	1	1	—
Measles	249	249	9	—
Diphtheria	15	8	12	—
Pneumonia	87	81	14	12
Dysentery	5	1	1	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—
Chickenpox	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	3	3	—	—
Paratyphoid	1	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	2	2	1	—

Diphtheria.

There were 14 cases notified and of these 7 were confirmed as being diphtheria. The following table gives particulars as to when the cases occurred and the age of the patient. All the cases were removed to and treated at Moxley Isolation Hospital.

TABLE 10

	No. of Cases	Age	Confirmed
JANUARY —Week ended 5th.	—	—	—
Week ended 12th.	2	30 28	No No
Week ended 19th.	1	5	Yes
Week ended 26th.	2	36 19	Yes No
FEBRUARY —Week ended 2nd.	1	2	Yes
Week ended 9th.	1	7	No
Week ended 16th.	2	6 8	Yes Yes
MARCH —Week ended 1st.	1	9	No
Week ended 22nd.	3	20 35 5	No No Yes
AUGUST —Week ended 30th.	1	29	Yes

National Assistance Acts—1948 and 1951.

Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.
Nil.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

There was no outbreak of food poisoning during 1952.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE YEAR 1952

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
the Borough of Bilston.**

MR. MAYOR, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report upon the Sanitary and Cleansing Services of the Borough for the year. This is my sixth Annual Report.

The report is divided as usual into two sections, the first dealing with the Sanitary Services covering the twelve months ending the 31st December, 1952, and the second which deals with the Public Cleansing covering the twelve months ending the 31st March, 1953.

Sanitary Services.

Details of inspections and visits made are given in Table 1. The total number of visits is 9,754. A considerable decrease upon the previous year.

This decrease is accounted for by the fact that we have only had three District Inspectors, and no replacement had been made for the Inspector who resigned in November 1951, and in some part due to my inability to undertake to a great extent the normal visits and inspections that are required.

Due to illness, my work had been confined chiefly to office administration which, whilst essential, is only part of the normal duties required.

The depleted staff have been unable to cope with the normal efficiency, with all the many duties that are expected from them. It has been a case of selecting the most important duties to be performed viz. meat inspection, housing, caravans and etc. and less vital work has had to receive the minimum of attention.

In addition, one member of the department, an unqualified Inspector, who was responsible for all work upon the visiting of cases of overcrowding, had to cease work at the end of 1951 and, in consequence, the work he normally undertook had not been so possible during the year.

As will be noted from the individual headings in the report, the work of meat inspection has claimed priority with the depleted staff of Inspectors and there still remains the need for two Inspectors.

One full-time at Downs and one part-time at Warrens, to cope with the need for inspection of all pigs slaughtered at these slaughterhouses. Such work cannot be left without endangering the food supplies of the town.

Whilst the actual number of visits to slaughterhouses is slightly less this year, the number of animals inspected has increased, and the importance of this work cannot be over emphasised.

Another activity which has claimed the services of Inspectors is the removal of caravans and gypsies from the remaining sites in the Borough, and some permanent solution to this problem still remains of vital importance.

The inspection and supervision of food premises of all types has received careful supervision within the limits of the staff available.

Details of improvements and repairs executed are given in Table III.

During the year 4,243 improvements have been made to houses and other premises. 3,099 of these improvements were obtained without the service of notices and the majority of these were the cleansing of drains, the treatment of premises affected by rodents, supply of ashbins and the disinfection of verminous premises. These obviously were carried out by employees of the Health Department.

The work done to houses, without the service of notices, has decreased during the year. This is understandable when it is appreciated that the cost of any work to property these days is very expensive, and owners or agents cannot undertake work which is not vitally essential. Obviously such persons are indeed anxious that necessary work shall be notified to them by the department, before it is undertaken. Agents find that the actual owners require in many cases, some guarantee of the essential nature of the work to be done, in order that they are aware to some extent of the probable cost of the work involved.

Public Cleansing.

The work done during the year has once again been difficult and has required very careful supervision, in order that refuse should be removed and disposed of in as orderly and systematic a method as possible.

There has been a paramount endeavour to reduce, if possible, the cost of the work without impairing efficiency. The labour difficulties still exist and the quality of the labour available does not

in many ways reach the standard we were used to in the past years. Despite increased wages and facilities afforded to the workpeople, there does not seem to be the appeal to the working man as there was some years ago.

Refuse Collection.

The question of cost is obviously very important and every endeavour is made to keep this down. This year, costs have remained at about the same level as last year, despite the fact that more refuse has been collected from more houses than in the previous year. This work has been done by four teams of men, and a weekly collection, so essential to the service, has been maintained with great difficulty.

It has been found necessary to increase the charges made for the collection of trade refuse during the year, as it was found that the sum originally charged bore no relation to present day costs.

Details of refuse collected are given in Table XI.

Refuse Disposal.

The continued use of the angledozer has resulted in greater efficiency on the tip and the area of land now levelled is very extensive. It has been found that industrialists delivering their refuse to the tip have been quite satisfied that their vehicles disposing of the refuse will not sink, due to the fact that the use of the angledozer eliminates the use of tipping plates, and at the same time consolidates the refuse as it is tipped and levelled.

It has been found necessary to increase the charge made for the disposal of trade refuse, although this only covers the disposal of trade refuse and does not include the great amount of industrial refuse delivered to our tip.

Salvage.

Systematic collections of paper and kitchen waste have continued during the year, as there is still a need for this material for the making of plasterboard for house construction and the making of food containers of all descriptions. Similarly, the direction to collect kitchen waste remains in operation. This material, once processed, is a valuable supplement to the pig and poultry food which is available.

It is interesting to note that scrap metal became acutely short during the year, as European markets ceased, and in consequence, the Ministry of Supply requested that the special scrap drive should be held in Bilston.

This proved to be an outstanding success, in that more than twice the tonnage of the original target was collected.

Collection and Disposal Costs.

Details are given in Table XIV of the cost of collection and disposal of refuse, together with relevant statistics.

Conclusion.

To you Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen, I tender my sincere thanks for the support you have so readily given me during the year.

I wish to thank all the officials of the Corporation for their help and co-operation during the year.

To the Health and Cleansing staffs, I offer sincere thanks for their loyal and wholehearted support. I am deeply indebted for their work so nobly done.

I hope that the demands which of necessity I had made, have not been too severe. Indeed, I am deeply grateful for their response and the spirit of comradeship that has been noteworthy in the department.

To the employees of both departments I am very grateful and mindful of their help and co-operation during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. ERIC S. SHELDON,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.*

SANITARY SERVICES

TABLE I.

Details of inspections made during the year are as follows :—

VISITS	Inspections	Re-Inspections	Total
Dwelling Houses			
Routine	359	555	914
Complaints	509	321	830
Overcrowding	5	—	5
Dirty Condition	14	11	25
Disinfected	62	69	131
Disinfested	78	112	190
Rodent Control	423	1,205	1,628
Infectious Diseases	166	48	214
Disinfestation—Visits	282	—	282
Removals	271	—	271
Other Premises			
Licensed Premises	18	1	19
Street Food Vendors	18	—	18
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Sites	262	36	298
Common Lodging Houses	4	—	4
Houses let in lodgings	10	2	12
Factories	30	—	30
Workplaces	1	1	2
Bakehouses	18	—	18
Ice-cream Manufacturers	14	—	14
Retailers	59	2	61
Samples	96	—	96
Slaughterhouses	795	1	796
Private or Emergency Slaughter	8	—	8
Offensive Trades—Fried Fish Shops	26	—	26
Food preparing premises	94	1	95
Ice Stores	1	—	1
Market—Visits	54	—	54
Meat Stalls	92	—	92
Other Food Stalls	101	3	104
Shops re Meat and Food	211	9	220
Others	102	4	106
Rodent Control	15	24	39
Warehouses	3	—	3
Public Conveniences	23	—	23
Stables	12	—	12
Premises re Swine, Fowl, etc.	55	—	55
Premises re Offensive Accumulations	33	—	33
Pet Animals Act	28	—	28
Drains Tested, Inspected and Cleansed	1,757	30	1,787
Sewers—Inspected	15	—	15
Street Gullies Inspected	6	2	8
Rodent Control	96	—	96
Smoke Observations—General	531	14	545
Cafes and Restaurants	24	8	32
Cafes—Bacteriological Swabs	16	—	16
Works Canteens	8	—	8
Water Samples—Bacteriological	21	—	21
Chemical	14	—	14
Exhumation	1	—	1
Cleansing and Salvage Visits	74	—	74
Miscellaneous Visits	375	—	375
Rag Flock Act	5	—	5

The number of inspections of all kinds made was 7,295 and the number of re-inspections 2,459, making a grand total of 9,754 for the year.

Complaints.

The number of complaints received during the year was 1,451. 185 of which were in respect of alleged nuisances or sanitary defects and 1,266 in respect of choked drains and water closets.

The complaints made in respect of sanitary defects are 36 less than in the previous year, and those in respect of drains and water closets 45 more than the previous year.

All complaints were visited and the necessary action taken to secure abatement of nuisances where necessary.

Defects Found and Notices Served.

As a result of the inspections made, a total of 2,270 defects or nuisances were found. 1,984 of which were affecting 1,400 houses and 286 affecting 145 other premises.

To remedy these defects or nuisances, a total of 372 notices were served, made up as follows :—

Informal Notices	.....	251
Statutory Notices	.....	121

Of these, 364 were served upon owners or agents and 8 upon occupiers of premises.

Details of Statutory Notices served are as follows :—

TABLE II.

	Issued	Complied by Owner	Complied by Council	Justices Order	Not Complied
Sec. 92-93 Public Health Act, 1936	121	78	—	2	41

As reported in previous reports, the repair of properties remains extremely difficult, and owners or agents bear a very heavy responsibility in undertaking works of repair of any description, due to the

rising cost of materials and labour during the year, with the result that the cost of any work executed upon property is expensive and the owner or agent cannot expect any satisfactory return from the properties for many years to come.

It is obviously with genuine reluctance that such persons undertake any repairs and those which have been executed voluntarily are very few and have only been done where absolute necessity has demanded it.

Sanitary Improvements Made and Defects Remedied.

A total of 1,144 improvements were made in compliance with notices served. 843 of these were in connection with houses and 301 in connection with other premises. The number of improvements made without the service of notices, which were either undertaken by employees of the department (the provision of ashbins and cleansing of drains) or work which was supervised by Inspectors of the Department was 3,099. 3,034 of these improvements were in connection with houses and 65 in connection with other premises.

Details of improvements made are as follows :—

TABLE III.

DWELLING HOUSES

	By Notice	Without Notice	Total
Internal			
Ventilation improved	8	—	8
New windows provided	12	7	19
Window cords renewed	55	11	66
Dampness in walls remedied	50	7	57
Plaster of walls repaired	82	22	104
Plaster of ceilings repaired	61	10	71
Floors repaired	29	2	31
New fireplaces provided	12	1	13
Old fireplaces repaired	8	2	10
Doors repaired	5	4	9
Old windows repaired	42	6	48
Ovens provided	3	—	3
Partition walls rebuilt	3	—	3
Staircases			
Steps repaired or provided	9	—	9
Guard rails repaired	1	—	1
Plaster of walls repaired	3	1	4
Plaster of ceilings repaired	5	—	5
Larders			
Provided	1	—	1

Sculleries and Wash-houses	By Notice	Without Notice	Total
New windows provided	—	1	1
Windows repaired	1	—	1
Plaster of walls repaired	2	—	2
Plaster of ceilings repaired	1	—	1
New sinks provided	6	7	13
Ventilation improved	—	—	—
Old sinks repaired	4	—	4
Waste pipes trapped	2	—	2
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	8	3	11
Wah coppers provided	1	—	1
Doors repaired	1	—	1
Floors repaired	3	—	3
Roofs repaired	3	—	3
Window cords renewed	1	—	1
Water supply repaired	3	—	3

Cellars

Floors repaired	2	1	3
Drainage provided or repaired	1	4	5
Filled in	—	2	2
Emptied and cleansed	1	6	7

External

Roofs repaired	118	25	143
Eaves spouts provided or repaired	22	5	27
Down spouts provided or repaired	15	3	18
Walls repaired and/or repointed	37	8	45
Chimney stack repaired and/or repointed	33	5	38
Doors repaired	6	—	6
Downspouts disconnected from drain	1	—	1
Steps repaired	2	1	3

General

Yard paving or surfaces repaired	6	—	6
Yard drainage installed or repaired	3	—	3
Houses cleansed	4	6	10
Boundary walls repaired	1	2	3
Houses supplied with Town Water Supply	9	—	9
Overcrowding discontinued	—	1	1
Offensive accumulations removed	1	—	1

OUTBUILDINGS.

Water Closets

Roofs repaired	8	—	8
Walls repaired and repointed	5	1	6
Doors repaired	1	1	2
New cisterns fixed or repaired	16	10	26
New pedestals and seats provided or repaired	31	5	36
Lighting and ventilation improved	14	1	15
Cleansed and/or limewashed	8	1	9
Soilpipes repaired	2	—	2
Water supply provided	3	1	4
Provided in substitution for other conveniences	1	—	1

Coal Stores	By Notice	Without Notice	Total
Walls repaired and/or repointed	2	—	2
Roofs repaired	2	—	2
Doors repaired	1	1	2
Sewers			
Cleansed	—	3	3
Repaired	—	1	1
Ashbins			
Renewals	—	745	745
Provided for new houses	—	236	236
Provided for other premises	—	24	24
Privies			
Converted or abolished	—	2	2
Drains			
Repaired and relaid	41	9	50
Cleansed	13	1,567	1,580
Disconnected from sewer	5	—	5
Inspection chambers built or repaired	11	2	13
Self cleansing gullies provided	6	1	7
Under house abolished	1	—	1
Ventilated	1	—	1
Infested Premises			
Freed from vermin	—	70	70
Freed from rats	—	135	135
Freed from mice	—	100	100
Offensive Accumulations			
Removed	10	11	21
Animals so kept as a nuisance			
Nuisances abated	10	1	11
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Sites			
Removed	248	14	262
Sites improved	17	1	18
Factories (Mechanical Power)			
Conveniences—cleansed and/or limewashed	2	1	3
Cesspools			
Abolished	—	1	1

	By Notice	Without Notice	Total
Ashpits			
Repaired	—	—	—
Converted or abolished	—	2	2
Food Preparing Premises			
Cleansed and/or limewashed	—	1	1
Structural Improvements	1	—	1
Abolished	—	4	4
Food Shops			
Improvements under Food and Drugs Act	3	14	17
Hot water provided	—	2	2
Cellar flooding abated	—	1	1
Atmospheric Pollution			
Additions to plant improvements	—	3	3
Food Vans, Cart and Stalls			
Covering and screening of back and sides provided or improved	2	—	2
Improvements	3	—	3
Cinemas and Theatres			
Improvements	2	—	2
Bakehouses			
Cleansed or limewashed	1	1	2
Other improvements	1	2	3
Ice-Cream Manufacturers			
Sterilising Equipment Provided	1	2	3
Other improvements	—	2	2
Slaughterhouses			
Cleansed and limewashed	—	2	2
Total Defects Remedied or Improvements made		4,243	
In connection with houses	843	3,034	3,877
In connection with other premises	301	65	366
	<u>1,144</u>	<u>3,099</u>	<u>4,243</u>

Housing.

The policy of obtaining housing repair has continued as in previous years by the service of notices under the Public Health Acts.

The policy of making Demolition Orders in certain cases has continued throughout the year and purchase of old property in the areas which are likely to be re-developed in the near future has

continued. This method has permitted the demolition and closing of many old and dilapidated properties which will be, or have been, affected by the re-development and house building in the central areas of the town.

The tenants of these houses are in the main being rehoused in new houses built in the vicinity, and in the event of any such tenants being rehoused, the property being in the ownership of the Corporation, can be immediately closed and demolished when possible.

Sanitary Accommodation and Sewerage.

The work of cesspool emptying has been transferred together with street cleansing, back to the Surveyor during the year and, therefore, it can only be stated that the two remaining cesspools at Messrs. Thompson Brothers, Great Bridge Road, have continued to be emptied by that department, free of charge.

Schemes are in hand for the elimination of these and for the drainage to be properly connected to the sewer as is necessary.

Drains and Water Closets.

During the year 1,575 choked drains and water closets were cleansed by employees of the Health Department. Of these, 1,266 were the subject of complaints made to the Health Department by the occupants of the houses concerned, and the employees of the Health Department in the course of their duties found and cleansed 309 drains.

The number of drains cleansed free of charge during the year is slightly more in number than for the previous year, and one can only say that such free services do tend to make people careless, when they know that drains will be attended to by reporting such to the Health Department, and that this is done free of charge.

It has to be agreed that the cleansing of drains by Health Department employees is efficient and is done with the absolute minimum of delay, but it can only be repeated as in previous Annual Reports, that there should be some nominal charge made for the service.

Public Conveniences.

The erection and completion of additional conveniences has continued during the year. The most notable being the new block completed and opened in Wolverhampton Street in the park grounds. This convenience has proved of great value both to pedestrians in the vicinity and to people frequenting the park.

There is still a great need for some convenience to serve the general public and the stall holders in the Market, and whilst consideration has been given to this possibility during the year, no scheme has yet been finalised for this work.

Infectious Diseases.

During the year 166 visits have been made to investigate certain cases of notified infectious disease, and 48 re-inspections have been made to these cases for various purposes.

Disinfection.

The number of houses disinfected after infectious disease was 62 and 69 re-inspections were made in these cases. Every house in which an infectious case occurs is not automatically disinfected by the employees of the department, as it has in the past been thought unnecessary to do so.

Disinfestation.

During the year 78 houses were disinfested and 112 re-inspections were made in these cases.

Treatment was by fumigant smoke or insecticide sprays in each case.

The removal of all tenants' furniture and effects was carried out by employees of the Health Department, specially trained for this work. The furniture and etc. was treated by HCN gas and the bedding was treated in the steam disinfector at the Cleansing Department. All new tenants of Council houses who have been removed from old property, have been so treated.

271 such treatments were undertaken during the year and 2 removals and treatments were undertaken for the Willenhall Urban District Council during the same period. Charges were made for these latter disinfestations.

Shops Act.

In addition to the 220 visits made to food shops, 106 visits have been made to other shops in connection with the operation of the Shops Acts.

Rag Flock Act.

The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act 1951 has been in operation for the year, and whilst detailed enquiries have been made of all likely premises within the Borough, only one which is affected

by the Act has been found, and even in this case certain difficulties have arisen due to the fact that these premises are situated on the borders of the Borough. The actual shop premises are outside the Borough boundary, whilst a store in which the rag flock is kept is actually within the Borough.

Canal Boats.

As in previous years, no specific visits have been made for the purpose of canal boat inspection, due to the fact that there are no true wharves in Bilston.

The District Inspectors do keep such boats under supervision when visiting other premises in the course of their duties, but no actual registered boat has been seen in the wharves of the various business premises which use boats for the transport of materials in conjunction with their works.

Such boats as have been seen are lighters carrying coal and etc. and these have no living or sleeping accommodation.

Common Lodging Houses.

There is only one common lodging house in Bilston and whilst this house is old, it is well maintained, and inspections have revealed no contraventions of the Act.

The inhabitants are in the main permanent residents.

Caravans and Moveable Dwellings.

During the year 298 visits have been made to various sites in the Borough for the express purpose of moving caravans occupied by gypsies. Whilst this number of visits is a considerable reduction upon those made in the previous year, far too much time is being spent in the removal of vans and no permanent solution has yet been found to this problem.

This matter is now being discussed by various Local Authorities and it is hoped that eventually some definite means will be evolved in dealing with this type of van dweller.

Rodent Control.

The number of complaints received during the year was 149, this being an increase of 51 as compared with the previous year.

The number of inspections and re-inspections made for the purpose of treatment was 1,628 for domestic premises and 39 for shop and business premises. In addition to these inspections, 96 visits and inspections were made in the course of the twice yearly treatment of sewers in the town.

The work of sewer treatment was carried out in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, as the work of rodent control ranks for grant aid, and unless sewer treatments are undertaken twice a year grant aid is not forthcoming.

The results of the two treatments of sewers are as follows :—

TABLE IV.

	1st	2nd
Number of manholes in system	797	909
" " " treated	122	137
" " " showing infestation	33	43
" " " showing complete pre-bait take	—	—
Actual bodies seen	33	49
Estimated kill	87	125
Dates of treatments	March	Sept.

Once again sewer infestations show a decrease and the Ministry's Inspector is very satisfied with the methods adopted for the extermination of rats and mice throughout the Borough.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Meat and Food Inspection.

The number of carcasses and organs of animals slaughtered and intended for human consumption during the year was 50,494, an increase upon the previous year. Of these, 49,179 were slaughtered for the Ministry of Food and 1,315 were slaughtered for private pigkeepers.

All animals slaughtered were pigs. No other types are slaughtered within the Borough.

Of the total number of pigs slaughtered, only 4 were slaughtered and inspected on private pigkeepers premises, with the permission of the local office of the Ministry of Food. The remainder were slaughtered at the three slaughterhouses approved by the Ministry of Food and ourselves for this purpose.

All carcasses and organs have been inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors employed in this department and the necessary condemnations have been made of unsound or diseased meat.

As there has been no replacement of the Inspector who resigned over a year ago, the work of meat inspection has fallen upon the remaining two qualified Inspectors who have found this work, whilst it is known to be of paramount importance, a heavy burden in

addition to their other duties, and whilst no actual specialisation is said to be done in this work, it has been practically so during the year.

It will be noted that the actual number of carcasses totally condemned has increased very slightly during the year for all diseases other than Tuberculosis, whilst those condemned for Tuberculosis have been slightly less than for the previous year, and whilst this is so, it will be noted that the number of animals slaughtered has increased considerably during the same period.

The total number of visits made to slaughterhouses for the purpose of meat inspection was 796 and the number of visits and inspections to shops, market stalls and other premises for the purpose of meat inspection was 312.

Details of carcasses inspected and of which the whole or some part was condemned are given as follows :—

TABLE V.
Carcasses Inspected and Condemnations

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	—	—	—	—	50,494
Number Inspected	—	—	—	—	50,494
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	39
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	3,987
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	7.89
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	44
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	5.64
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	2,803

The diseases or conditions causing the condemnation of fresh meat or organs are given as follows :—

TABLE VI.

Diseases or conditions causing fresh meat and/or organs to be condemned as unfit for food (tons, cwt.s., lbs.)

	PIGS								TOTAL	
	Carcass and Organs	Heads and Collars	Lungs	Heart	Stomach and Intestines	Kidney	Liver	Spleen	Omentum	Parts of Carcass
Acute Swine Erysipelas	3-21									
Abscesses	1-2	12					9			1-29½
Ascaris Lumbricoides							4-18			
Bacterial Necrosis							8			
Arthritis										3½
Bruising										38
Chronic Nephritis						5½	8-35½			5½
Cirrhosis										8-35½
Congestion			21½							21½
Contusion										21
Cystic										½
Cysticercus Tenicollis									11½	1
Decomposition		52								20½
Echinococci			34							52
Erysipelas	1-73					36	3-6½			3-70½
Fatty Degeneration							1-15			1-73
Fracture with Contusions										1-15
Haematoma								6½		81
Hydraemia	76									6½
Hydronephrosis						8				76
Infarcts								8½		8
Inadequate Bleeding	3-34									8½
Laceration										3-34
Lobar Pneumonia			1-17-5½							23½
										1-17-5½

TABLE VI—continued

P I G S										TOTAL	
	Carcass and Organs	Heads and Collars	Lungs	Heart	Stomach and Intestines	Kidney	Liver	Spleen	Omentum	Udder	Parts of Carcase
Moribund	1-13-27										
Oedema	77										21
Rickets	26										
Pericarditis				1-69½							
Peritonitis					1-18½		9-27	14½			27
Petechiae						1					
Pleurisy			7-105								
Pyæmia	1-39										
Seedycut										5	
Septicaemia	4-67									4-67	
Strongylus Paradoxus			1-37							1-37	
Torsion								4½			4½
T.B. Generalised	3-18-80										3-18-80
T.B. Localised		14-4-81½	11-102		4-16-75		1-8-106½	25½		8	7-74
Urticaria											83½
Uraemia											1-23
	6-8-74	14-5-33½	2-18-80½	1-69½	4-17-93½	50½	2-15-9	59½	11½	13	12-89½
											32-1-24½

CARCASSES AND ORGANS

Generalised T.B.	44
Septicaemia	5
Moribund	24
Acute Swine Erysipelas	2
Hydraemia	1
Bowel Oedema	1
Rickets	1
Inadequate Bleeding	2
Pyæmia	1
Multiple Abscesses	1
Peritonitis with Emaciation	1
	83

All types of premises where food is sold, stored or prepared for sale have received careful supervision during the year and details of the inspections made of these different types of premises are shown in Table I.

With few exceptions, all premises have maintained a satisfactory standard.

Details of food examined, found to be unfit for human consumption and surrendered for destruction, are as follows :—

TABLE VII.

FOOD	Tons	Cwts.	Lbs.	REASON FOR CONDEMNATION
Biscuits			17 $\frac{3}{4}$	Damaged in transit.
Bottled Goods			52 $\frac{1}{4}$	Unsealed and Excessive Mould.
Cake			1	Rodent Contamination.
Cheese			18 $\frac{3}{4}$	Excessive Mould.
Chocolate and Sugar				
Confectionery			72 $\frac{3}{4}$	Damage by Moisture.
"			7	Rodent Contamination.
"			70	Contamination.
Desiccated Cocanut			13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rancid.
Dried Fruit			20	Mites and Moulds.
Fruit		1	48	Over-ripe and unsound.
Ham			61	Decomposition.
Jelly			3	Contamination.
Potatoes		3	—	Diseased.
Suet			$\frac{1}{2}$	Paraffin contamination.
Tinned Goods	1	6	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	Blown and Damaged Tins.
	1	14	28	
Fresh Meat	32	1	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	See Table VI.
TOTAL	33	15	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	

It has not been necessary to resort to the seizure of any food found to be unfit for human consumption, as all food found so unfit has been voluntarily surrendered and destroyed. All such unsound food is collected by special transport from the Cleansing Department and disposed of by the department.

It is pleasing to again report that tradespeople are aware of the danger of selling any food which is unfit or suspiciously so and they are anxious and very willing to seek the advice and opinions of an Inspector, should any food on their premises be in an unfit or suspicious condition.

The persons concerned readily accept the opinion of the Inspector and voluntarily surrender the food for destruction.

Slaughterhouses.

The slaughter of animals (pigs only) for human consumption is still confined to the three slaughterhouses in the Borough, namely :—

J. E. Downs & Sons, Broad Street.
W. D. Warren, High Street.
Allman & Son, Oxford Street.

The centralisation of the slaughter of pigs at these three slaughterhouses does permit the complete inspection of all animals so slaughtered, and guarantees that all animals slaughtered are properly inspected, and that the meat finally passed for human consumption is perfectly sound and satisfactory.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

15 slaughtermen have renewed their licences under the Act for the year and 5 original licences have been issued to new applicants.

Street Food Vendors.

Many applicants for licences under the Bilston Corporation Act have commenced re-construction of their vans, in order to conform to the requirements, but few have in actual fact completed their vans during the year.

The Inspectors in the department are at all times willing to offer advice and guidance whenever possible on this work.

It is pleasing to report that two street food vendors, both selling wet fish, have at last been persuaded that it is in their own interests as well as in the interests of their customers, to convert their handcarts to conform with the byelaws, and it must be stated that the conversions are a considerable improvement.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

As reported last year the control of such premises remains in the main with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Milk Production Officers and the processing plants are supervised by the County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority.

The one large processing plant in Broad Street has seen fit to go out of production entirely and to sell the milk delivery business to a Wolverhampton firm.

Our duties now consist nearly entirely in the supervision of shops and similar premises from which bottled milk is sold.

The details of licences issued by the Local Authority are as follows :—

140 Dealers Licences (Sterilised).

9 Supplementary Dealers Licences, for Sterilised and Pasteurised Milk.

2 Dealers Licences (Tuberculin Tested).

9 Supplementary Dealers Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Ice Cream.

There are 81 premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the manufacture or sale of ice-cream in the Borough. 78 of these premises retail ice-cream obtained from other producers.

Inspections of these premises during the year show that a large number only sell ice-cream during the summer when there is a greater demand for it.

Of the 4 premises retailing ice-cream produced thereon, 3 use the cold mix method and the other uses the heat treatment method. In the latter case this producer makes a speciality of ice-cream and supplies many shops with this product.

During the year 75 inspections have been made to such premises to supervise the production of ice-cream, and whilst this is deemed to be not sufficient, it is the greatest number possible with the limited staff available.

A total of 105 samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted for examination to the Laboratory at Stafford. Whilst this is a considerable increase on the previous year, it is still considered to be below the number of samples desired.

A summary of the results is as follows :—

Bacteriological		
Grade 1	.....	73
Grade 2	.....	20
Grade 3	.....	7
Grade 4	.....	5
		105

Only 12 samples out of the 105 were unsatisfactory and in each case investigations were made into the cause of this. By advice and warnings, where necessary, each retailer has had following-up samples which have been satisfactory.

In addition to the samples taken by us, we have received copies of results of samples taken by other Authorities from the large producer in Bilston who supplies retailers in other areas.

Bakehouses, Fried Fish Shops, Food Preparing Premises, etc.

Regular and routine inspections of all types of food premises have been maintained during the year. 18 visits have been made to the bakehouses, and whilst some of these premises are old and the proprietors have difficulty in maintaining satisfactory standards therein, it is pleasing to report that this has been done.

It is also pleasing to note that wrapped bread is becoming increasingly popular, and whilst there are many people who raise objections to this type of bread, there is no doubt that such bread is by far the more hygienic as it is untouched by hand, and in these days when many housewives are going out to work, the bread has to be left on the doorstep where it is unprotected from contamination by cats, dogs, birds and etc. The use of wrapped bread in such cases alone is of great value.

The standard of other food preparing premises such as catering establishments, fried fish shops and etc. has been satisfactory and 153 inspections of these premises have been made during the year.

During the year application was made for the licensing of a mobile fish and chip frying business. There seems to be a growing demand for such in many parts of the town, particularly on the new housing estates where there are no fish frying businesses.

Very careful supervision of mobile businesses of this nature will have to be maintained, as obviously there can be very grave nuisance from such establishments if care is not maintained. In the particular case in mind the van was considered unsuitable and is, therefore, not operating.

During the year a system of taking swabs of articles used in catering establishments was commenced and whilst insufficient time has elapsed to enable a detailed report to be given upon this work, there is no doubt of this need, and for attention when time and personnel will permit it.

Food Sampling.

The sampling of milk and food under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, is undertaken by the Sampling Officer of the County Council who are the Food and Drugs Authority under the Act.

The following details of samples taken during the year in Bilston were supplied by Dr. G. Ramage, County Medical Officer of Health.

Milk

Milk Pasteurised	.....	.....	.....	10
Milk Sterilised	.....	.....	.....	15
Milk T.T.	.....	.....	.....	2
Milk T.T. Pasteurised	.....	.....	.....	14
Milk T.T. Certified	.....	.....	.....	3
TOTAL				44 All Genuine.

General Foods

Number of Samples taken	.....	.....	28
Number of Samples Genuine	.....	.....	25
Number of Samples Adulterated	.....	.....	3

Classification of General Foods

Beef Sausage (3 samples).	Lemon Curd.
Fresh Fruit Pudding and Apple.	Beef Suet with Flour.
Portugese Sardines in Oil.	Pure Coffee.
Mincemeat	Red Cherries in Syrup.
Hampe (Pork & Veal Luncheon Meat).	Pearl Tapioca.
Coffee and Chicory Essence.	Pork Sausage.
Savoury Spread.	Ice Cream Powder (2 samples).
Blue Vein Cheese.	British Ruby Wine (Port Style).
Gravy Salt.	British Sherry Wine.
Ice Cream (3 samples).	South African Sherry.
Jaffa Orange Segments in Syrup	Wine Cocktail (Sweet Nell).
Beans in Tomato Sauce.	

Particulars of Adulterated Samples

- Pork Sausage—Formal—5.5% deficient of its proper proportion of meat
—Written Caution.
- Ice Cream—Formal—10.6% deficient of its proper proportion of milk solids—
Fined £3—Costs £3-7-0.
- Ice Cream—Formal—18.6% deficient of its proper proportion of milk solids—
Fined £3—Costs £3-7-0.

The sampling of milk under the Milk and Dairies Act is also undertaken by the Sampling Officer of the County Health Department, and the following is a summary of the samples taken by that Officer during the year, giving details of the various tests required under the Act and the results thereof.

Designation	Number taken	Cleanliness Test		Phosphatase Test		Turbidity Test		Biological Test	
		Satisf.	Unsatisf.	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Submitted.	Pos.
T.T.	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
T.T. Pasteurised	10	10	—	10	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised	9	9	—	9	—	—	—	—	—
Sterilised	8*	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—
	31	23	—	19	—	8	—	2	—

* Not submitted to cleanliness test.

Factories Act 1937.

The following tables give details of inspections made and action taken in connection with the Factories Act 1937.

TABLE VIII.
Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	16	6	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	143	28	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	19	—	—	—
TOTAL	178	34	3	—

TABLE IX.

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	5	5	—	3	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	11	11	—	6	—

TABLE X.

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110				Section 111	
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel { Making, etc.	2	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and washing						
Household linen						
Lace, lace curtains and nets						
Curtains and furniture hangings						
Furniture and upholstery						
Electro-plate						
File making						
Brass and brass articles						
Fur pulling						
Iron and steel anchors and grapnels						
Iron and steel cables and chains						
Cart gear						
Locks, latches and keys						
Umbrellas, etc.						
Artificial flowers						

TABLE X.—continued.

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Nets, other than wire nets						
Tents						
Sacks						
Racquet and tennis balls						
Paper bags						
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper						
Brush making						
Pea picking						
Feather sorting						
Carding, etc. of buttons, etc.						
Stuffed toys						
Basket making						
Chocolates and sweetmeats						
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc.						
Textile weaving						
Lampshades						
TOTAL	3	—	—	—	—	—

Pet Animals Act.

During the year many premises have been visited which were thought likely to come within the provisions of this Act, but only one, Mr. W. Cole, Great Bridge Road, Bilston, does in fact come within the provisions of the Act.

This person does rather an extensive trade in all types of birds and animals which are sold as pets, and very detailed inspections have been made at these premises in order that they shall conform to the requirements.

Considerable assistance has been given in this work by Inspectors of the R.S.P.C.A. These officers are probably more qualified to give an opinion upon the comfort and housing of animals than anyone, and it was a pity that it could not be agreed that one of their personnel should be appointed along with the Sanitary Inspectors to act as officers under the Act. However, helpful advice is always readily given on matters affecting these premises.

Improvements have been made to the premises mentioned above and constant routine visits are made in order to satisfy ourselves that the conditions obtaining are in all respects satisfactory. It is difficult, however, to be shown by the proprietor a metal container in which scores of tropical birds are packed and sent from overseas, and to ignore the fact that such a container is inadequate and unsuitable for the large number of birds it contains, and at the same time give reasons why action is not taken against the persons concerned in being allowed to use such a container. There is no doubt that this container which is shaped in the form of an incubator, is very small for the number of birds it has to contain.

One cannot offer much in the way of comment upon such a container, although it can be stated that this type in which birds are delivered to a proprietor ready for sale, leaves much to be desired.

Atmospheric Pollution.

All instruments as listed in the Annual Report for 1951 for the measurement of atmospheric pollution have been in operation throughout the year. In addition, one further deposit gauge has been installed and put into operation on a site in the Bradley area.

The results of all instruments are submitted to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for collation by them as in previous years.

The preparation of materials and analyses necessary for submission to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research have been carried out by Mr. L. Starbuck and his staff, with the permission of Messrs. Stewarts & Lloyds Limited.

The recording of atmospheric pollution by these approved methods has been in operation in Bilston since 1944 and it is more or less possible to now have a true picture of the extent of such pollution in the town.

Records show that pollution has a definite tendency to decrease, although no marked improvement has occurred during the past year.

It is, however, interesting to note the recent interest that is being shown in the work of eliminating pollution and the use of the word 'smog' in relation to this. The word, of course, obviously comes from the use of the first three letters of smoke and the last two of fog. The word does aptly describe the severe nuisance that is caused by the smoke from all sources, which in turn adheres to particles of water vapour which does not rely upon pollution or the burning of fuel for its creation.

Now that actual interest is being taken in this matter, it would appear that more definite steps will be taken in the future for the elimination of this nuisance, but one wonders how much notice was taken in past years, particularly when I submitted a paper at the Blackpool Conference in 1948. My instruments and recordings even at that time showed the serious nuisance that was being caused not only from industrial chimneys but from domestic as well, and the percentage given as shown by the recordings made of 50% from industry and 50% from domestic chimneys was no doubt thought at that time to be rather unreliable.

It is now, however, generally accepted that such is the case and as I stated in those days and have repeated many times since, the modern industrialist has appreciated that smoking chimneys means waste. In fact, waste to him means loss of money, as the fuel used is not being efficiently consumed and is depriving his plant of maximum efficiency. It is obvious that in modern progressive establishments something would be put in hand to eliminate this waste, and whilst it was not principally to eliminate pollution, the elimination of waste did in fact reduce the pollution from this source.

As a result of reports submitted to the Council on this work, it was agreed to instal grates in houses which would burn smokeless fuel and even give greater efficiency if coal was burned, and it can now be stated that such foresight is proving of material benefit, and the

total domestic smoke issued into the atmosphere is undoubtedly being reduced. This will even be more so in the future when smokeless fuel is more readily obtained.

The number of Authorities now operating instruments for measurement of pollution in collaboration with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research is increasing year by year, which in turn shows the increasing interests of Local Authorities in this work.

It is wrong to assume that pollution only affects urban areas where houses and factories exist. It is unfortunately, often thought to be the case, but whilst smoke is generated in far greater quantities in urban areas, it does affect rural areas when transferred by air currents. The effects are not obviously so severe, but pollution is there, and this has been proved by the instrument operated by this Authority and situated at the Waterworks in a rural area nearly eight miles from Bilston.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The work covered by this section is for the financial year 1st April 1952 to the 31st March 1953.

The public cleansing services have been maintained with difficulty during this period and the collection of refuse on a weekly basis has been a difficult problem.

The recruitment of labour is still one of the most severe problems met with and there is no doubt that men do not look upon this work as having any appeal.

In the old days it was looked upon as a job with security, and the older employees in the department still prove to be the best type that are employed.

Refuse Collection.

The transport used for the collection of refuse remained the same as in previous years, until July 1952 when Street Cleansing was transferred back to the Surveyor's Department. It became necessary then to reorganise, and in an endeavour to reduce cost on the service, only three vehicles and gangs were in operation from that time onwards in the collection of refuse. The new Shelvoke and Drewry Fore and Aft tipping vehicle was received and put into service at this time and there is no doubt that this type of vehicle does permit of a fuller load of refuse being collected, which in turn means less journeys to the tip for disposal.

This type of vehicle is one in which the principles are sound, in that the compacting of refuse in the body is carried out by tipping arrangements and not by screws or other moving parts which rapidly deteriorate in the presence of ash. The use of a horse and cart has ceased and this vehicle was transferred with the street cleansing staff.

The weight of refuse collected during the year has increased and this is no doubt accounted for by the extra houses which have now to be cleared of refuse week by week.

In addition there is, of course, the extra refuse which amounts to a considerable tonnage which has to be collected from various houses, and as reported in the last year's Annual Report there are many premises in the town from which more than one bin of refuse has to be removed each week. The removal of this extra refuse adds considerably to the cost of the work, as this means longer time in the actual collection of refuse.

Trade Refuse.

For some years the income from the collection and disposal of trade refuse has not been sufficient to cover the cost of the work involved, principally due to increased cost of labour and materials and it was therefore decided to increase the charges made for this work. Collection costs were increased from one guinea per annum per bin collected to £1 11s. 6d. and where intermittent bins of refuse were collected the charge made for these was increased to a shilling per bin emptied and the cost of collecting one load of refuse was increased to £1 10s. 0d.

Similarly the cost for disposal was increased to 5/-d. per load delivered to the tip.

TABLE XI.

Details of Refuse Collection.

HOUSE REFUSE—DRY

	Receptacles Emptied	Loads Removed	Estimated Tonnage
Motors	451,536	3,897	12,172
TOTALS	451,536	3,897	12,172

MISCELLANEOUS REFUSE REMOVED

	Covering for Tips		Trade Refuse		To June 1952 Cesspools		Waste Paper		Kitchen Waste		Condem- ned Food		Misc.		Total	
	Lds.	Tns.	Lds.	Tns.	Lds.	Tns.	Lds.	Tns.	Lds.	Tns.	Lds.	Tns.	Lds.	Tns.	Lds.	Tns.
Motors...	34	68	4½	3	252	756	951	117½	246	307	110	41½	96	128	1693½	142

STREET CLEANSING TO JUNE 1952

Street Gullies

	Cleansed	Loads	Tons
Mechanical	937	33	99

Street Sweeping to June 1952

	Mileage	Loads	Tonnage	Water Used (Galls.)
Mechanical	3,505 (Actual)	149	112	4,390
Manual—Team with Cart	3,016 (Estimated)	137	103	—
Street Orderlies	3,909 (Estimated)	935	64	—
TOTALS	9,430	1,221	279	4,390

Street Cleansing.

In July 1952 this service was returned to the Surveyor's Department together with gully cleansing and cesspool emptying.

Salvage.

The direction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to collect kitchen waste has remained in force during the year.

The collection of waste paper of all descriptions has continued and whilst there is a reduction in the amount collected, the total income from this source shows a marked increase. This is due to the increased price being paid by the Board Mills for this product, and now the position has once again been reversed, in that stocks have accumulated and prices have again fallen. Nevertheless, there is still an urgent need for paper salvage, particularly by the Mills to whom we supply our collected paper, as one of their main products made from salvaged paper is wallboard which is so essential in the construction of new houses. Similarly, the manufacture of cartons is also a very important part of their work and it cannot be over emphasised how important it is to see that food products are satisfactorily packed in such containers in their passage from producer to retailer.

The system of collection has remained as it was during the previous year.

Details of the amounts collected and the income therefrom are given in Table XII.

The system of kitchen waste collection as outlined in previous reports has continued during the year and each new Council house occupied has been supplied with a special container for the reception and storage of kitchen waste until it is collected by the Local Authority. There has been some difficulty, however, in deciding that the material so stored, despite the fact that it is in a receptacle provided by the Local Authority, does in fact belong to them and cannot be disposed of to private individuals.

There has been a slight increase in the amount collected during the year and here again the material once it is delivered by us to Wolverhampton and passed through their processing plant, is without doubt a very great aid in the feeding of pigs and poultry.

During the year a special drive for the collection of scrap metal was held and this was an outstanding success. The Ministry of Supply gave full support to this and through their organiser Mr. Lavender, a great deal of the work was done by them. Leaflets were printed by them and distributed by our own workpeople. His Worship the Mayor made records appealing for public support to this project and all this was done free of cost to the Local Authority.

A target of sixty tons was thought to be sufficient for Bilston in view of our past efforts, but during the week 122 tons were in fact collected. The work of collection was undertaken by the teams of refuse collectors and their vehicles on stipulated nights during the week, and as previously stated, the response by householders was outstanding.

TABLE XII.

MATERIALS	1952-53			1951-52			1950-51			1949-50			1948-49		
	WEIGHT		VALUE	WEIGHT		VALUE	WEIGHT		VALUE	WEIGHT		VALUE	WEIGHT		VALUE
	Tons	Cwts.	£	Tons	Cwts.	£	Tons	Cwts.	£	Tons	Cwts.	£	Tons	Cwts.	£
Paper	149	17	1,227	176	9	2,740	182	2	1,289	202	—	1,185	155	—	1,040
Kitchen Waste	307	15	1,125	281	6	927	277	11	857	284	—	869	263	—	624
Metals	105	12	494	1	13	4	1	6	11	2	10	9	10	—	33
Bottles, Jars and Cullet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	—	277
Textiles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	13	5	—	26
Bones	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
			2,846			3,671			2,157			2,076			2,001

Refuse Disposal.

Disposal is still by controlled tipping, although great difficulty has been met in the production of suitable covering matter for use on the tip.

The angledozer has proved that it is capable of dealing with all domestic refuse and with the considerable amount of industrial refuse which is delivered free of charge to the tip for disposal.

The advantages of the angledozer are great, in that there is no need for tipping plates and the consolidation made by the use of this machine does permit of all types of vehicles discharging their load without difficulty towards the tip edge. All vehicle drivers have found this a great benefit and have said so in no uncertain terms.

The extent of land on the Lunt which has been levelled is very considerable and there will have to be urgent consideration given to the selection of new sites for the disposal of refuse in the very near future, as the tip is now nearing the new Council houses built and occupied within the Darlaston Urban District Council.

Details of Refuse disposed of are as follows :—

TABLE XIII.

LUNT AND LOXDALE TIP (ESTIMATED WEIGHTS)

	Cleansing Department		Tradespeople and Others		Total	
	Loads	Tons	Loads	Tons	Loads	Tons
House Refuse—Dry	3,897	12,173	—	—	3,897	12,173
Trade Refuse	5	3	174	87	179	90
Coverings & Sweepings	794	213	—	—	794	213
Gully Sludge to June 1952	33	99	—	—	33	99
Industrial Refuse	—	—	4,573	27,438	4,573	27,438
Miscellaneous	—	—	624	624	624	624
TOTALS	4,729	12,488	5,371	28,149	10,100	40,637

OTHER TIPS

Sweepings (Street Orderlies)	156	11
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CLEANSING DEPOT TO JUNE 1952

Sweepings (Mechanical Sweeper and Orderly)	149	112
	156	11
TOTALS	305	123

SEWAGE WORKS—SEWER INLET TO JUNE 1952

Cesspools	252	756
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GRAND TOTAL—REFUSE DISPOSED

Cleansing Department	5,442	13,378
Others	5,371	28,149
TOTALS	10,813	41,527

TABLE XIV.

Refuse Collection and Disposal Costs.

House and Trade Refuse

	COLLECTION	DISPOSAL	TOTAL
	£	£	£
Gross Expenditure	13,460	1,499	14,959
Gross Income	173	47	220
Net Cost	13,287	1,452	14,739
Unit Costs.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Gross Expenditure per ton	22 2	2 5.5	24 7.5
Gross Income per ton	3.4	0.9	4.3
Net Cost per ton	21 10.6	2 4.6	24 3.2
Net Cost per 1,000 population	£ s. d. 396 19 7	£ s. d. 43 7 7	£ s. d. 440 7 2
Net Cost per 1,000 premises from which refuse is collected	£ s. d. 1444 4 9	£ s. d. 157 16 6	£ s. d. 1602 1 3
Rate Poundage.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Net Cost equivalent rate in the £	1 8.92	2.24	1 11.16
Percentage of above to total rates in the £	8.72%	0.93%	9.65%

Total Refuse Collected (tons) estimated on test weighings	12,172
Population—estimated	33,470
Number of houses and premises from which refuse is collected	9,200
Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day	19.9
Rateable Value—31st December, 1952	£152,545
Product of 1d. Rate	£612
Total Rates in the £	20/-d.
Method of Collection :	
Motor Vehicles (petrol)	4
Method of Disposal :	
Controlled Tipping	100%
Average length of travel to point of disposal	2 miles
Number of employees (other than Clerical)	
Foreman	Collection 1
Others	26 2
Frequency of Collections	Weekly

Cleansing Depot.

After modernisation the Depot has proved to be very effective, although it is doubted as to whether the employees fully appreciate the facilities now provided for them.

As to the necessity of these facilities there is no doubt, as the nature of the work of refuse collection and disposal warrants such.

The modernisation of the Depot was long overdue and it was a pity that such work was left until building costs had risen to such an extent as to make the work very expensive.

This had to be done in an effort to recruit labour and to provide the men with the same facilities as they could get in any private industry these days.

The older members of the department do realise the difference in the conditions that now exist, as compared with the facilities they had many years ago, and yet one must report that the work done in those days compared more than favourably with that done today.

Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance Depot.

The repairs and maintenance of the vehicles has continued at the special workshop provided at the Cleansing Department. Whilst this work has continued, it has been thought advisable to transfer the control of the work to the Borough Treasurer.

